

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND

PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, August 1, 2001, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, 555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Dennis Scheer, Gordon Scholz, JoAnne Kissel, Mike Eckert, Scott Sullivan, and Third World Oforah

Others: Greg MacLean (HDR); Carole Eddins (Urban Development); Mike Stritz (Solid Ground); Lori Houle & Ray Blackstead (Dogs-N-More); Jerry Obrist (Water Department); Ed Zimmer & Missy Minner (Planning Dept.)

STATED PURPOSE

OF THE MEETING: Regular Monthly Meeting of the Urban Design Committee

Approval of meeting notes of July 11, 2001 - Scholz moved approval of the meeting notes as distributed, seconded by Eckert. Motion 3-0; Scheer, Scholz, and Eckert voting 'yes'; Kissel and Oforah voting 'no'; Sullivan and Todd absent.

Review of sidewalk café, southwest corner of 14th & O Streets, "Solid Ground" café - In response to the request for more detailed information at last month's meeting, Stritz distributed a site plan. He noted that there were an additional 4 tables shown on the drawing plan that would not actually be in the café. He has not been able to find a vendor with the fence that he wants, so he offered pictures of the fence at Jimmy John's, his fence will be similar to that one. He wants the furniture and trash receptacles to blend with the building rather than stand out.

Kissel moved approval, seconded by Eckert. Motion for approval carried 5-0; Scheer, Scholz, Kissel, Eckert, and Oforah voting 'yes'; Sullivan and Todd absent.

Review of Dogs-N-More Vendor Cart - Lori Houle explained that their cart is drawn by a vehicle to the location, but can be moved by hand. It is large, but it has 3 wheels which makes it easier to maneuver. They have received approval from the health department. They plan to locate in the downtown area, on O Street between 14th and 15th Street. This is an opportunity for additional income for them, they also are available for hire for birthday parties. They will offer a variety of foods. The cart is cleaned off-site.

Oforah moved approval, seconded by Scholz. Motion for approval carried 5-0; Scheer, Scholz, Kissel, Eckert, and Oforah voting 'yes'; Sullivan and Todd absent.

Review of Vendor Pushcart for Patrick Schreiner - Eddins explained that the ordinance gives police the authority to remove carts or have carts removed during high congestion times, including football games. Vendor carts are growing in popularity. They are required to stay 30' away from each other and out of the path of the handicapped ramp. They must also stay 50' from permanent businesses. Due to the increased

popularity of vendor carts, it will become challenging for them to find a location. The Police Department advises each vendor to shut down before the bars close. The ordinance does not encourage or permit carts in front of publicly zoned property, for example the City-County Building and Old Federal Building. They can be across the street.

Scheer pointed out that while not part of the Urban Design Committee review, the Health Department has denied this application. He did not want the Committee to sign off on and be in conflict with another City Department. Eddins indicated that the applicant is aware that he will not be able to serve food until the Health Department signs off on the permit.

Zimmer suggested that the Committee mention they are giving their recommendation on the urban design aspects of the cart. He added that as the Health Department gets more stringent, the carts are becoming sturdier.

Scholz moved approval subject to receiving approval from the Health Department, seconded by Sullivan. Motion for approval carried 6-0; Scheer, Scholz, Kissel, Eckert, Sullivan, and Oforah voting 'yes'; Todd absent.

Review of finishes for 10 million gallon water reservoir, 84th & Yankee Hill Road - MacLean recalled the discussion from the previous meeting. The tank is 75' tall and 150' wide. It is located directly across from Jensen Park. The tower is only 100' off the road and will shadow the road by 4:00 p.m. The members had suggested that Parks add trees to match the perimeter of the cemetery to create a natural buffer. It would be possible to do something in the right-of-way, but that would make the future widening of 84th Street difficult. Sand and sky blue were the preferred choices for color at the previous meeting.

Sullivan added that the consensus of the members present was to keep this simple.

Obrist indicated that due to future construction of an additional reservoir at this site, they would want a minimum number of trees planted so that they won't have to be destroyed at that time. It may be possible to enhance this, but it won't be possible to screen it.

Sullivan moved approval of a single color, avoiding white, yellow, and dark tones, seconded by Kissel. Motion for approval carried 6-0; Scheer, Scholz, Kissel, Eckert, Sullivan, and Oforah voting 'yes'; Todd absent.

Update on streetscape improvements -

Federal Garage, south side of O Street from 15th - 16th Street-

Castillo stated that this is the last step for now on the O Street crusade which began approximately 5 years ago. This includes planting beds and new trees. This has been discussed with GSA, Steve Schwab, DLA, and Urban Development. Everyone seems happy with the proposal Clark Enersen has come up with.

Scheer indicated that the landscape portion of the project has not been bid yet. There will be planting beds with planter curb at the corners and also in the middle. The planting scheme will pick up the concept for planting on O Street with about half of the bed being planted with Daffodil bulbs with Husker Red Penstemon perennial over the top of them. At the curb there will be 4 rows of Froebel spirea and

Handcock Coralberry to edge the sidewalk. The same general planting scheme occurs in the middle part of block, except Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry have been added to the existing ash trees. They are proposing deep red roses between the Handcock Coralberry and the plantings at the curb in the middle of the block. Out at the curb will be a series of perennials, Husker Red Penstemon backed up by May Night Salvia.

Members were not in favor of the elimination of the seating area. If the concern with the seating area was transient activities, this area should be more lit rather than not lit at all. Members felt this would be a missing link when streetscape for Antelope Valley is started.

1st Phase Entryway Project, east side of 9th Street from R - Q Street-

This project includes 2 block faces. Builders Inc is done with O Street except for some brick work. The tracks have been removed and the sidewalk was poured a couple days ago. Width of sidewalk is down from 12' to 8' at the direction of UDC. The only portion waiting on finalization is the vacation of R Street. Dallas McGee is working with Bill Johnston on that.

Scheer explained that this project includes continuous full planting beds rather than turf. The beds will be irrigated with a planter curb from the sidewalk to protect the planting area. There will be a series of Kentucky Coffeetrees in the planting area spaced at about 35' on center to occur between the pedestrian lights. The pedestrian lights are single headed lights with banner arms and 4 seasons of banners. There will be May Night Salvia, Husker Red Penstemon and a series of bulbs that run all the way down the length of the block.

At the planter curb next to the sidewalk, where space allows, two rows of roses. There will be a combination of deep red roses and a row of light pink roses. Where the bed narrows to allow only one row of roses they will continue with the deep red roses. The roses will grow 3-4' wide and 2-3' tall. Once established, the thorns on the roses will keep people from walking on them.

The same scheme is carried down the block to the north. This scheme provides a good barrier to keep people separated from 9th Street. The area to the east is the big lawn around the Journal Building. That has been planted with large ash trees. The ash trees are about 35-40' from the Kentucky Coffeetrees, so they will form a nice canopy. Electrical receptacles have been installed in the planting beds so that these could be lit if DLA chooses to do so.

The irrigation system for this block will be a fully automatic system. The other blocks discussed would have the quick coupler type system. That is a decent system, but he is not sure of the appropriateness of that as a capital (20-30 year) expenditure.

Zimmer mentioned that the Haymarket Parking Garage design across the street uses the pylon feature which is topped with lights as a major architectural element to establish the line of the garage along the sidewalk. The next step of the discussion will be to decide if you allow another light or allow the garage light which would be architecturally distinctive.

The garage will not be before the Urban Design Committee because it is a Haymarket project, so its design review is before the Historic Preservation Commission. This will become a strong entry into Lincoln between 2 well-designed buildings with nice landscaping and public space.

Scheer suggested that the Committee who reviews it should be made aware of what is happening across the street.

Zimmer indicated that the entryway project is being implemented in varying degrees. There is no financing behind the project. He assured members that the way these items work together is being considered.

Members discussed the possibility of having a joint meeting with Historic Preservation Commission since Urban Design had a perspective and interest in this project. Zimmer indicated that he would see that the Committee gets an update on the design.

South side of Q Street from 12th to 13th Streets and around the corner to the alley -

Latrell explained that this presentation doesn't include any plant materials. He will be working with Kim Todd on the landscaping. He is working to bring the various blocks together in terms of a theme. The public right-of-way in this area is very narrow and has full frontage parking. There is an additional element with the driveways into the parking garage. The sidewalk will remain at 9'8" to allow good sight lines in and out of the garage. This will also allow the existing street trees to be used. They are leaving 24.5' between street trees and plantings. They are adding a quick coupler irrigation system, festival lighting, additional furniture, waste receptacles and bicycle posts. Brick planters will be included at the corners. There is a vault below this area, re-waterproofing the vault is included in this project.

The owners have requested no parking signs. There will be no ornamental lighting. The two existing lights will be left there.

Oforah moved approval of all 3 proposals noting the Committee's concern with the lack of lighting on O Street (15th to 16th) seconded by Kissel.

Scheer commented that the north side of O Street is lit on that block. New lights were installed with that streetscape. He added that lighting was discussed and was left out at the request of the police department.

Motion for approval carried 5-0; Scholz, Kissel, Eckert, Sullivan, and Oforah voting 'yes'; Scheer abstaining; and Todd absent.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.